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N.B. Human Rights Commission

Human Rights Commission chair appointed (00/02/29)

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FREDERICTON (CNB) -- The appointment of Dr. Patrick Malcolmson as the new chair of the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission was announced today by Labour Minister Norman McFarlane, the minister responsible for the commission.

"I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Malcolmson to the commission. His background and expertise will help further the pursuit of protecting and promoting human rights in our province," McFarlane said. "I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize outgoing chair Constantine Passaris for his years of hard work and dedication."

"This is a great honour, and I look forward to helping protect and promote human rights in New Brunswick," Malcolmson said. "We can begin to focus on teaching students about the philosophical foundation of human rights and human dignity, and thus give young people a deeper appreciation of their importance as the contemporary basis for a just society."

An Alberta native, Malcolmson received his BEd and MA from the University of Alberta. He pursued doctoral studies at the University of Toronto, where he was awarded an Ontario Graduate Scholarship, as well as a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Fellowship. He obtained his PhD in Political Science in 1992.

Malcolmson worked in the Legislative Research Service of the Ontario legislature from 1985 to 1987, and taught Political Science at the University of Alberta from 1987 to 1990. He then joined the Faculty of St. Thomas University in Fredericton, where he is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science. In addition, he is St. Thomas University's Assistant Vice-President (Academic) and the director of its Human Rights Programme.

Malcolmson is the author of numerous scholarly articles and reviews on Canadian politics, legal and political theory, natural law and rights. He and Dr. Richard Myers are co-authors of the book The Canadian Regime.

Malcolmson replaces Constantine Passaris, who had been the Commission's Chair since 1989. The other current members of the Commission are André LeBlanc of Moncton, Dorothy Dearborn of Hampton, Mary Jane Ward of Red Bank and Judy Hawkins of Douglas.

The New Brunswick Human Rights Commission administers the provincial Human Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination and harassment based on religion, age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation,

mental and physical disability, race, colour, national origin, place of origin and ancestry. The act applies to all employers, public services and housing, except those that fall under federal jurisdiction.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: For more information about the Human Rights Commission, visit the following Web site: http://www.gnb.ca/hrc-cdp/e/index.htm. MEDIA CONTACTS: Dr. Patrick Malcolmson, Chair, New Brunswick Human Rights Commission, 506-453-2301; Shawn Hearn, director of corporate communications, Department of Labour, 506-453-2568.

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